

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice, add new claim 7, and amend claims 1 and 3 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A data communication device in communication with an external communication device, comprising:

a reply unit configured to transmit reply information corresponding to a request issued by the external communication device, and to store the reply information in a memory;

a connection monitoring unit configured to monitor a connection between the data communication device and the external communication device, the connection for transmitting the reply information from the reply unit; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit the reply information corresponding to the connection stored in said memory to said external communication device based on a result of the monitoring by said connection monitoring unit if the transmission unit determines that the connection has been abnormally cut off.

2. (Previously Presented) The data communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reply information destruction unit which destroys the reply information stored in said memory if the reply information destruction unit determines that the

connection is normally released based on the result of the monitoring by said connection monitoring unit.

3. (Currently Amended) The data communication device according to claim 1, wherein

the reply information includes at least identification information for identifying the request and reply data, wherein the external communication device retrieves the reply information corresponding to the abnormally cutoff connection from among a plurality of the reply information stored in a memory while using the identification information and makes a transaction match based on the reply data, the transaction including communication processes relating to at least the request and the reply information.

4. (Previously Presented) A data communication method, comprising:

transmitting reply information from a first data communication device, the reply information corresponding to a request issued by a second data communication device,

storing the reply information at the first data communication device;

monitoring a connection between the first and second data communication devices, the connection for transmitting the reply information from the first data communication device; and

transmitting the reply information corresponding to the connection and stored at the first data communication device to the second data communication device based on a result of the monitoring as if it is determined that the connection has been abnormally cut off.

5. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium for computer executable instructions, which when executed on a computer, causes the computer to perform:

transmitting reply information from a first data communication device, the reply information corresponding to a request issued by a second data communication device,

storing the reply information at the first data communication device;

monitoring a connection between the first and second data communication devices, the connection for transmitting the reply information from the first data communication device; and

transmitting the reply information corresponding to the connection and stored at the first data communication device to the second data communication device based on a result of the monitoring as if it is determined that the connection has been abnormally cut off.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) The data communication device according to claim 3, wherein the reply unit configured to store the reply information associated with an IP address and a port number corresponding to the connection in said memory, and the transmission unit retrieves the reply information corresponding to the abnormally cutoff connection from the reply information stored in said memory while using the IP address and the port number corresponding to the abnormally cutoff connection as a key.